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Mr. WARREN presented, as a gift from J. Carson Brevoort, Esq., an engraved, and also a photographic copy of Pine's portrait of Washington, together with a *fac-simile* of Washington's original letter authenticating Pine's picture, taken in 1785.

Voted, That the President be requested to acknowledge this interesting donation, and to express to Mr. Brevoort the thanks of the Society.

Mr. MASON presented several valuable pamphlets, accompanying the gift with historical and biographical remarks.

JANUARY MEETING. — 1861.

A stated monthly meeting was held this day, Thursday, the 10th of January, at noon; the President, Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

In the absence of the Librarian, the Recording Secretary announced donations from the Commissioner of Patents; the State of Tennessee; the Smithsonian Institution; Henry Barnard, Esq.; J. B. Finlay, LL.D.; William W. Forbes, Esq.; Mrs. Eliza Gilpin; Lieutenant-Colonel James D. Graham; Hon. Hugh B. Grigsby; B. P. Johnson, Esq.; James Lenox, Esq.; Benjamin H. Rhoades, Esq.; Eugene Sanger; Sotheby and Wilkinson; and from Messrs. Bartlet, Green, Holmes, Quint, Robbins (C.), Savage, Webb, and Winthrop, of the Society.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a letter of acceptance from Count Adolphe de Circourt, recently elected an Honorary Member of the Society.

MR. WILLARD presented to the Society, and read to the meeting, the following letter, dated Boston, June 24, 1790, signed by a Committee of the Convention of the Congregational ministers of Massachusetts:—

BOSTON, June 24, 1790.

REV. SIR, — The Congregational ministers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, assembled in Boston on the 27th of May, 1790, —

Voted, That the Rev. Dr. Willard, Dr. Howard, Mr. Morse, Mr. Payson, and Mr. Thacher, be a Committee, in the name and behalf of the Congregational ministers of this Commonwealth, in convention assembled, to prepare, sign, and transmit to the Congress of the United States, a petition, requesting the attention of that honorable body to the subject of the several impressions of the Bible now making; representing the importance of accuracy in these impressions, and earnestly praying that they would take such measures as the Constitution may permit, that no edition of the Bible, or its translation, be published in America, without its being carefully inspected, and certified to be free from error.

Voted, That the same persons be a Committee to apply to the representative bodies of the other denominations of Christians in America, and to request their assistance and support in accomplishing so important and desirable an object.

Agreeably to the first of the above votes, we have forwarded a petition to Congress, praying that they would take into their consideration the interesting matter of printing the Bible, and direct to such measures, as, in their wisdom, may be thought proper to secure the public from impositions by inaccurate and mutilated editions of it. We consider this as a subject which equally concerns all denominations of Christians, as we all appeal to the Holy Bible as the standard of truth.

It is unquestionably of the highest importance, that this acknowledged fountain of truth be preserved pure and uncorrupted. This will not probably be the case if the matter is left wholly to the printers.

We therefore, as friends and brethren, united in promoting the same general cause, and as jointly concerned in preserving the purity of the Holy Scriptures, do, in behalf of the Convention, earnestly request the concurrence of the Episcopal clergy throughout the United States, or of their representative body, in petitioning Congress that they would so far interpose their authority as to prevent inaccurate and spurious editions of the Bible.

It was the wish of the Convention to have written, in the first instance, to your reverend body, and the other representative bodies of Christians in the several States, requesting that committees might be appointed by each to confer and unite with us in one petition, and thus to concentrate the whole Christian interest in America. But to accomplish this desirable object would have taken a long time ; and it was thought the business was of immediate importance, as proposals for several editions of the Bible are now in circulation.

We take this opportunity to express our sincere desire to cultivate a friendly and Christian intercourse with the ministers of your denomination ; as we are firmly persuaded that such an intercourse between Christians of different denominations and sentiments would have a happy tendency to harmonize them, to remove unreasonable prejudices, to promote a spirit of love and candor, and thus essentially serve the interest of our holy religion. It might also have a beneficial influence on the civil affairs of our country.

We wish you, sir, to communicate the foregoing to the largest representative body of the Episcopal Church in America, as soon as you have opportunity.

Wishing prosperity to the peaceful kingdom of our common Lord and Saviour,

We are, Rev. sir, your brethren in Christ,

JOSEPH WILLARD,	} Committee.
PHILLIPS PAYSON,	
SIMEON HOWARD,	
PETER THACHER,	
JEDH. MORSE,	

Rev. Dr. PARKER, Boston.

Mr. Willard stated that he had examined the House Journal from the end of May, 1790, to Jan. 6, 1791, and found no record of a petition from the Congregational clergy. He found, however, as follows ; viz. : —

“Jan. 5, 1791. — Several petitions of the Baptist associations of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont, were presented and read, praying that Congress will adopt measures to prevent the publication of any inaccurate editions of the Holy Bible. *Ordered*, That the several petitions do lie on the table.”

“Wednesday, Jan. 19, 1791. — A petition of the Baptist Stonington Association was presented to the House, and read, praying that Congress will adopt measures to prevent the publication of any inaccurate editions of the Holy Bible. — *Ordered*, That the said petition do lie on the table.”

The President presented a bound manuscript copy of the “Catalogue of the Graduates of Harvard College,” by James Winthrop, Esq., librarian from 1772 to 1787.

Mr. ELLIS stated that he was happy to fulfil a commission intrusted to him several years ago, — to procure for the Society the letters which were known to be in existence from Dr. Belknap to his friend Mr. Hazard. Through the liberality of Miss Elizabeth Belknap, he was now enabled to offer to the Society's acceptance the correspondence in question, covering a period of twenty years.

The thanks of the Society were voted to Dr. Ellis for his successful intervention in procuring these valuable papers. The letters were referred to the Standing Committee.

Mr. ROBBINS (C.) presented, as a gift from John A. Richardson, Esq., of Durham, N.H., the original manuscript of a charge by Judge Cushing to the Grand Jury in York County, June, 1780.

Rev. Edward Everett Hale, and Robert Bennett Forbes, Esq., were elected Resident Members.

Mr. SPARKS made a verbal report relating to two books in the German language,* which the President, through the kindness of Mr. A. W. Thayer, had obtained in Berlin, and had committed to him with a view to his examining the parts which relate to the American War. He had found that they contained an account of the raising of Hessian troops, critical remarks upon the military movements of our countrymen, and other interesting matter relating to the war of the Revolution.

Mr. Sparks read several extracts from a manuscript history of New England, written by Mr. Bennett in 1740, in which he also gives an account of his travels in this country, and of his impressions of Boston and its inhabitants. This book fell into the hands of Mr. William Vaughan of London, who gave it to Mr. Sparks about twenty years ago.

[By permission of Mr. Sparks, a more liberal selection from Mr. Bennett's manuscript than was communicated to the Society is here printed.]

BOSTON IN 1740.

Boston, being the principal town of any in New England, should, in propriety, have been first described; but intending to be something more particular in the description of that than any of the others was the reason of my deferring it till the last. And according to the best account I can meet with, together with the little observation I am capable of making upon viewing the several parts of it, I here present you with as follows.

Boston, the capital of New England, according to the account given me of it, is situated in forty-two degrees twenty-four minutes of north latitude, and seventy-one degrees western longitude. This town stands on a peninsula, or almost island, about four miles in

* "Betrachtungen über die neuere Kriegskunst, über ihre Fortschritte und Veränderungen und über die wahrscheinlichen Folgen welche für die Zukunft daraus entstehen werden. Vom General Baron von Ochs. Cassel, 1817." — "Biographie des Généraux von Ochs. Cassel, 1827."

circumference, at the bottom of a fine bay of the sea. At the entrance of the bay there are several rocks of great magnitude, the tops of which appeared considerably above the surface of the water at the time of our passing by them. There are also about a dozen little islands all in view as we approach the town, some of which are as fine farms as any in the whole country.

This town has a good natural security, in my opinion ; for there is great plenty of rocks and shoals, which are not easy to be avoided by strangers to the coasts ; and there is but one safe channel to approach the harbor, and that so narrow that three ships can hardly sail through abreast : but, within the harbor, there is room enough for five hundred sail to lie at an anchor.

The entrance to the harbor is defended by a strong castle, which they call Fort William, on which there are mounted a hundred guns, twenty of which lie on a platform level with the water, to prevent an enemy passing the castle ; which is a quarry surrounded by a covered way, joined with two lines of communication to the main battery. This battery is situated so near the channel, that all ships going up to town must sail within musket-shot of it. They have always one company of soldiers doing duty in the castle, even in time of peace ; but in time of war they are said to have five hundred : and so I was taught to believe they had now, till I saw the contrary. But there is such a number of men, who are excused all other military duty, on purpose to attend the service of the castle if need require it, whom they say they can call together in an hour's time.

About two leagues distant from the castle, on a rock, stands an exceeding fine light-house, at which there is a guard constantly attending to prevent surprise ; from whence they make signals to the castle when any ships come in sight, whether friend or foe : for no ship is permitted to pass the castle without examination, for fear they should bring any sort of epidemical sickness into the town ; and the captain is obliged to certify for all on board his ship before he can pass, and is liable to such fine and imprisonment as they shall think proper if he conceals any disease that is on board the ship. And in this they are extremely exact, and will not suffer any sick persons to come on shore, nor even any of the goods, until they have performed quarantine.

But when a signal is made from off the light-house to the castle of the approach of an enemy, if there be more than four or five

ships, then the castle thereupon gives a signal to the town ; and those of the town alarm the country by firing of a beacon. And for that purpose they have a very famous one on the north-west side of the town, erected on a hill ; for bulk and eminence, much like unto that in Greenwich Park, on which Flamstead House stands.

At the bottom of the bay there is a fine wharf, about half a mile in length, on the north side of which are built many warehouses for the storing of merchants' goods : this they call the Long Wharf, to distinguish it from others of lesser note. And, to this wharf, ships of the greatest burthen come up so close as to unload their cargo without the assistance of boats.

From the end of the Long Wharf, which lies east from the town, the buildings rise gradually with an easy ascent westward about a mile. There are a great many good houses, and several fine streets, little inferior to some of our best in London, the principal of which is King's Street : it runs upon a line from the end of the Long Wharf, about a quarter of a mile ; and at the upper end of it stands the Town House, or Guild Hall, where the Governor meets the Council, and House of Representatives ; and the several Courts of Justice are held there also. And there are likewise walks for the merchants, where they meet every day at one o'clock, in imitation of the Exchange at London, which they call by the name of Royal Exchange too, round which there are several booksellers' shops ; and there are four or five printing-houses, which have full employment in printing and reprinting books, of one sort or other, that are brought from England and other parts of Europe.

This town was not built after any regular plan, but has been enlarged from time to time as the inhabitants increased ; and is now, from north to south, something more than two miles in length, and in the widest part about one mile and a half in breadth : and according to the best account I have been able to come at, which is from their muster-roll, there is near three thousand houses, and about thirty thousand souls. There are three Episcopal churches, one of which is called the King's Chapel, and has a handsome organ, and a magnificent seat for the Governor, who goes to this place when of the Church of England ; and there are nine Independent meeting-houses, one Anabaptist meeting, one Quakers' meeting, and one French Church. There are sixty streets, forty-one lanes, and eighteen alleys, besides squares, courts, &c. The streets are well paved, and lying upon a descent. The town is, for the

generality, as dry and clean as any I ever remember to have seen. When we were upon the sea, that part of the town which lies about the harbor appeared to us in the form of a crescent, or half-moon ; and the country, rising gradually from it, afforded us a pleasant prospect of the neighboring fields and woods.

Of the Trades, Manufactures, and Clothing of the People of New England.

Boston is said to be not only the principal town of trade in New England, but also of any in all the British-American Colonies. They employ annually between three and four hundred ships, great and small ; and they also build abundance of shipping for the English and other European nations. They have likewise a whale and several cod fisheries, which are very considerable ; which, with their ship-building, is the chief support of the country. They trade to the Carolinas, and also to Jamaica and Barbadoes, and all the other West-India islands and plantations in general ; with whom they exchange their beef, pork, fish, and other provisions, and also what they call lumber (such as deal-boards, pipe and hog-head staves, shingles, and such like commodities), for rice, pitch, tar, rum and sugar, and spices and logwood. Great part of the last-mentioned commodities they send to England in return for almost all sorts of English goods, but more especially clothing for men, women, and children. They have paper manufactured here, and some coarse woollen cloths ; but workmen's wages are so high in this part of the world, that they find it cheaper to import them from London : but there are some Irish people, which came over about seven or eight years ago, and are settled about sixty miles from Boston, who make pretty good linen cloth, and cheap, which serves some folks for ordinary uses. There are a good many hatters, too, in New England ; but they are chiefly employed in making up beaver-hats, which are sold cheaper here than in England : but the coarse hats they import from London, which comes much cheaper to the hatters than they can make them. There are several iron mines, too, in New England, and some very large iron-works, which furnish them with iron for most of their ordinary uses ; but the iron imported from England is counted the best, by far, to use about their shipping. There is a great deal of leather also that is manufactured here, and both tanners and curriers get

money very fast ; but the leather is not pretended to be near so good as that which is sent from England. There are also some copper mines in the Massachusetts Colony ; but they lie so far from the water-carriage, and the ore but poor, that they don't think it will answer the cost of digging of it. There are several distillers of rum, and sugar-bakers, in Boston, that carry on good trades : but the New-England rum is not so valuable as West-India ; nor is the sugar that's refined there equal to the best we have in London. Those which I have already mentioned are the chief manufactories carried on in New England, exclusive of bakers, butchers, tailors, barbers, smiths, carpenters, and other common artificers, which are necessary to the preservation of their lives and healths, which no civilized country can subsist without.

Of the Edibles, Potables, and Fowl of New England ; together with their Fruits, Roots, several sorts of Grain, and Trees.

Boston being the capital of New England, as London is of Old England, the country people find their account in bringing of their choicest provisions to this town ; by means of which, this place is well served with all sorts of eatables the country affords, many of which, as to the kind of them, are much the same as those we have in London. Their beef, mutton, and lamb are as good as ever I desire to eat : and as to their veal, it is not so white and fine, in common, as at London ; yet I have often met with it exceeding white, and fine as any I would wish to eat. And as to their pork, they challenge all the world, and will by no means admit that any we have in England is equal to it : and, indeed, I do think it very good ; but to say it exceeds what I have eat in England is more than I know how to do. They make but little bacon ; and that, in my opinion, is not half so good as ours : but they pickle their pork so well, that it answers the same end as fine bacon. Their poultry too, of all sorts, are as fine as can be desired ; and they have plenty of fine fish of various kinds, — all of which are very cheap. Take the butchers'-meat, altogether, in the several seasons of the year, and I believe it is about twopence per pound sterling ; though they will not allow it to be near so much if they are asked about it, because the best beef and mutton, lamb and veal, are often sold for sixpence per pound, of New-England money, which is some small matter more than one penny sterling. But I take my calculation to

be near the truth, from the observation I have made ; because, in depth of winter, the best butchers'-meat is sometimes a shilling a pound, and sometimes fourteen pence.

Poultry, in their season, are exceeding cheap : as good a turkey may be bought for about two shillings sterling as we can buy at London for six or seven ; and as large and fine a goose for tenpence as would cost three shillings and sixpence or four shillings in London. Fowls, too, are cheap in proportion : the first young ones that come to market are sold for about threepence ; and chickens, for about twopence. But the cheapest of all the several kinds of poultry are a sort of wild pigeon, which are in season the latter end of June, and so continue till September : they are larger and finer than those we have in London, and are sold here for eighteen pence a dozen (which is about threepence sterling), and sometimes for the half of that.

Fish, too, is exceeding cheap. They sell a fine fresh cod that will weigh a dozen pound or more, just taken out of the sea, which are generally alive, for about twopence sterling. They have smelts, too, which they sell as cheap as sprats are in London. Salmon they have, too, in great plenty, which is as fine as any I ever eat of, anywhere in my life ; and those they will sell for about a shilling a piece, which will weigh fourteen or fifteen pounds. They have flounders and plaice too, and eels, and likewise mackerel, in their season ; and several other sorts of fish not known in England, — all of which are good and cheap. And they have, likewise, plenty of oysters, which they say are finer than ours in London : but I must beg leave to differ with them in that ; for, in my opinion, they are not near so fine as some of ours. They are, for the most part, very salt ; and taste very copperish, as I think. Lobsters are plenty, and very good and cheap, here ; and many of them much larger than any I ever saw in England : but there are sizable ones too ; and I have bought larger for about three halfpence a piece (not by chance, but may have them so every day) than ever I saw sold in London, at the cheapest, for eighteen pence. They have venison very plenty also, which had almost slipped my memory : they will sell as fine a haunch for half a crown as would cost above thirty shillings in England ; and I think the venison is not, in the least, inferior to that we have in England. Bread is something cheaper here than in London, but is not near so good in common. Butter is very fine, and cheaper than ever I bought any at London ; the best is sold all the

summer long for about threepence per pound : but as for cheese, 'tis neither good nor cheap. Milk is sold here for much about the same price as at London ; only here they give full measure.

As to drink, they have no good beer in this country : Madeira wines, rum-punch, are the liquors they drink in common. With their victuals, the generality of the people drink cider. But there are several brewers in the town that brew for the shipping, and serve some private families with table-beer, which is very cheap, — less than half the price we pay at London. But cider being cheap likewise, and the people used to it, they don't encourage malt liquors. They pay about three shillings sterling a barrel for cider.

Their fuel is altogether wood, and is one of the most expensive articles of housekeeping in Boston ; but, up in the country, they have it for cutting.

As to the several sorts of roots used for sauce to their meats, they have most of the kinds we have in England, which originally came from thence : besides which, they have several of the natural growth of the country. They have a variety of the fruits, too, of the natural growth of the country, which were all wild when the English went first to America ; such as grapes, strawberries, raspberries, huckleberries, cranberries, and also several sorts of wild cherries, with many other sorts of wild fruits eaten by the Indians. And now they have most of the kinds of fruits we have in England, — apples and pears in great abundance, and also Kentish and several other sorts of cherries, and plums of various sorts, but not altogether so fine as in England. They have fine melons, too, vastly cheap and plenty ; and all sorts of beans and pease and salad herbs. They have run mightily into orcharding in this part of the world. At the latter end of the summer, which way soever we travel, the fruits hang so thick by the wayside, that one may gather them from the trees with almost as little trouble as to take them from one's own pocket. There are great plenty of fine peaches, which grow all upon trees, and are the natural growth of America. Some of them are as fine as the best we have in England, which we buy here for about threepence a peck : the common sort are so little regarded, that they feed their hogs with them. . . .

Of their Education, Manner of keeping the Sabbath, providing for their Ministers, and maintaining their Poor.

Their observation of the sabbath (which they rather choose to call by the name of the Lord's Day, whensoever they have occasion to mention it) — it is the strictest kept that ever I yet saw anywhere. On that day, no man, woman, or child is permitted to go out of town on any pretence whatsoever ; nor can any that are out of town come in on the Lord's Day. The town being situated on a peninsula, there is but one way out of it by land ; which is over a narrow neck of land at the south end of the town, which is enclosed by a fortification, and the gates shut by way of prevention. There is a ferry, indeed, at the north end of the town ; but care is taken by way of prevention there also. But, if they could escape out of the town at either of these places, it wouldn't answer their end : for the same care is taken, all the country over, to prevent travelling on Sundays ; and they are as diligent in detecting of offenders of this sort, all over the New-England Government, as we in England are of stopping up of highways, — more ; and those that are of the Independent persuasion refrain any attempts of this kind, in point of conscience. And as they will by no means admit of trading on Sundays, so they are equally tenacious about preserving good order in the town on the Lord's Day : and they will not suffer any one to walk down to the water-side, though some of the houses are adjoining to the several wharfs ; nor, even in the hottest days of summer, will they admit of any one to take the air on the Common, which lies contiguous to the town, as Moorfields does to Finsbury. And if two or three people, who meet one another in the street by accident, stand talking together, — if they do not disperse immediately upon the first notice, they are liable to fine and imprisonment ; and I believe, whoever it be that incurs the penalties on this account, are sure to feel the weight of them. But that which is the most extraordinary is, that they commence the sabbath from the setting of the sun on the Saturday evening ; and, in conformity to that, all trade and business ceases, and every shop in the town is shut up : even a barber is finable for shaving after that time. Nor are any of the taverns permitted to entertain company ; for, in that case, not only the house, but every person found therein, is finable. I don't mention this strict observation of the Lord's Day as intended rather to keep

people within the bounds of decency and good order than to be strictly complied with, or that the appointment of this duty was only by some primary law since grown obselete ; but that it is now in full force and vigor, and that the justices, attended with a posse of constables, go about every week to compel obedience to this law.

As to their ministers, there is no compulsory tax upon the people for their support, but every one contributes according to their inclination or ability ; and it is collected in the following manner : Every Sunday, in the afternoon, as soon as the sermon is ended, and before the singing of the last psalm, they have a vacant space of time, in which there are three or four men come about with long wooden boxes, which they present to every pew for the reception of what every one is pleased to put into them. The first time I saw this method of collecting for the parson, it put me in mind of the waiters at Saddler's Wells, who used to collect their money just before the beginning of the last act. But notwithstanding they thus collect the money for the maintenance of the clergy in general, yet they are not left to depend entirely upon the uncertainty of what people shall happen to give, but have a certain sum paid them every Monday morning, whether so much happens to be collected or not ; and no one of them has less than a hundred pounds sterling per annum, which is a comfortable support in this part of the world.

At a town which is about six miles from Boston they have a University, called Cambridge, where their clergy and other young gentlemen are sent to be educated. It consists of three colleges ; viz., Harvard College, Stoughton Hall, and Massachusetts Hall. They have a library there too ; but they say they are in want of some modern books, and also of some endowments for the reading of public lectures in their colleges by professors of several sciences. Besides this University, there are several other seminaries of learning for people of all ranks ; and, in general, they are as careful of the education of their children as in England. The young ladies are taught fine works, music, dancing ; and have every other qualification that may render them agreeable.

They also provide very well for their poor, and are very tender of exposing those that have lived in a handsome manner ; and therefore give them good relief in so private a manner, that it is seldom known to any of their neighbors. And for the meaner sort they have a place built on purpose, which is called the Town Alms-house, where they are kept in a decent manner, and are, as I think, taken care of

in every respect suitable to their circumstances in life ; and, for the generality, there are above a hundred poor persons in this house ; and there is no such thing to be seen in town nor country as a strolling beggar. And it is a rare thing to meet with any drunken people, or to hear an oath sworn, in their streets.

Of the Government, Laws, Manner of levying of their Taxes ; and also of their Money, or rather the Currency of New England.

The government of New England is that which is called a charter government, and consists of Governor, Council, and House of Representatives ; which together compose the Legislature, as the King and Commons do in England. But, as I have before observed, they are, by this last charter, barred of several privileges they enjoyed before, and which are common to the other charter governments ; such as the electing their Governor and Council, and also their magistrates in general, which is now reserved to the Crown. But the people still elect their Representatives, as the freeholders do the members of Parliament in England.

All the laws enacted here are to be sent over to England for the king's approbation ; and, if not repealed within three years, the Crown has not any power over them afterwards. But though their laws are thus sent over for approbation, yet they are in force from the time of their enacting, and, as often as need requires, are put in execution. The governor is captain-general-in-chief of all his majesty's forces, and, as such, has the power of the militia entirely in his hands ; and the judges, justices of the peace, and sheriffs, and all others to whom the execution of the laws are intrusted, are appointed by him, also with the advice of the Council, who are all of them his creatures ; for he has a negative upon every one of them when chosen, which is peremptory and unlimited, so that he is not obliged to give any reason for his objecting to them : so that he may be said to choose the Council too, notwithstanding the House of Representatives have the trouble, and are complimented with the name of doing it.

The income of the office of Governor of New England is not so considerable as several of the other governments of America, notwithstanding it is a larger government than any one of them. A gentleman who is a principal person in their House of Representatives assured me that it was not worth above eight hundred pounds

sterling *communibus annis*. They have, for some years past, had a contest with the crown of England about the settling of a salary of a thousand pounds per annum certain; but they will by no means come into that, though they say they are willing to do all in their power for a good governor. Yet, as they are not obliged, by their charter, to any certain sum or settlement, they will not easily be persuaded to saddle themselves in that manner: because, in the first place, they say they cannot tell how soon, after that is done, some hungry creature of the Crown, or also of the prime-minister, may be quartered upon them, and they obliged to pay him for plundering of them; and, in the next place, what they should then give by compulsion they would be sure to have no thanks for, though it should be more than he deserved or they could well spare. The present governor, Jonathan Belcher, Esq., is a native of New England; and, being in great esteem among them when in a private capacity, they sent him over to England as their agent, to oppose the then Governor Burnett, who was then making application for his salary to be ascertained and settled: and during this gentleman's stay in England, Governor Burnett happening to die, he, Mr. Belcher, instead of opposing the settling of the governor's salary, found means to get himself appointed their governor, which they say was by purchasing of it of Sir Robert Walpole; and, having so done, they say their now governor was as tenacious for settling the salary as the gentleman he was sent over to oppose. This behavior seems to have laid a foundation for endless jealousies between the governor and people; for although this gentleman was born, and bred up, amongst them, and a member of their darling Independent Church, and had every other qualification that might render him acceptable to these people, and whom, too, in all probability, they would have chosen for their governor sooner than any one gentleman in the country, if they had been at liberty to elect their own governor as formerly, yet coming to the government in this manner, and altogether unexpected to them, they never after like him, and imagine that the governor has sold them to Sir Robert, and, in consequence of that, distrust him in every thing he says or does in relation to government. And the House of Representatives are so backward to every thing he recommends, that they will not provide for the necessary support of their government, if he is more than commonly earnest in recommending of it to them; which makes things of that kind go heavily on.

As to the laws, if any one inquires after them, their lawyers say that the practice here is much the same as in England; but, upon attending their courts, they seem very different to what I have seen in England. Their trials by jury are all at bar: they have no such thing as *nisi prius*; nor do they make use of a book to swear either jury or witness on. Their manner of swearing their juries and witnesses is somewhat like our arraiging of prisoners. The officer that swears them first calls them by their names; and then, bidding them hold up their hands, he repeats the form of the oath to them (which differs also from ours): which being ended, the party lowers his hand to its proper place, and, without any other sign of assenting, is said to be sworn. Nor do the jury consider of their verdicts in every cause singly, as in England, but jumble six or seven of them together; and they will very frequently rise in the middle of a cause, if they are hungry at noon, or sleepy at night, and let the jury wander where they please, without taking the verdicts in those causes which they have gone through.

They have another method of practice that to me don't seem very agreeable: and that is, if any of their witnesses don't care for being present in court at the time of the trial of the cause, they take them before some justice of peace, where what they have to say is committed to writing, and sworn; and this is admitted as evidence, equal to the witnesses being present. This, in England, would be thought very strange practice, and big with great inconveniences, and more too, perhaps, than I am capable of apprehending; but, if such a custom was to prevail in England, there are some attorneys that would seldom want evidence sufficient to answer any end they had in view, if they could establish it with so much ease and privacy, without being examined or properly interrogated. But, if there was no other inconveniency than that of losing the benefit of cross-examination in court, — by which means not only the force of the evidence is much abated very often, but witnesses are more cautious of what they swear in the face of the country than when they do it in secret; nor would it be thought proper, in England, to acquaint a justice of peace with that which would be material evidence in a cause of any consequence, — these reasons already mentioned are therefore sufficient to show the danger and weakness of this sort of practice.

For the better security of their conveying their lands, mortgaging or otherwise alienating their several kinds of estates, there is an office kept in every county for the entering and enrolling the deeds,

after the grantor has acknowledged them before some justice of peace ; and this, they say, effectually prevents frauds in this respect. All kinds of their proceedings at law are, and ever were, in English, here ; but, notwithstanding that, they make use of more technical words than the gentlemen in Westminster Hall. They litigate suits here very easy and cheap, compared with ours in England, for less than a tenth part of the cost at present ; but how long it will remain so is something doubtful with me : of which, more anon.

They don't admit of any special pleadings nor demurrers ; but the general issue is pleaded to all, and the special matter allowed to be given in evidence : which saves both time and expense. Nor will they suffer a writ to be abated for a little defect in form, or a slight misnomer, or any other informality or little niceties in clerkship. And, for despatch, the declarations are made part of the writs in which the case is fully set out ; and, if it be a matter of account, the account is annexed to the writ, and copies of them delivered to the defendant : which being done within fourteen days of the sitting of the court, he is then obliged to plead, and take short notice of the trial. They have no tedious suits in equity (falsely so called) ; but justice and equity are here understood to mean one and the same thing.

The judges are not bound down by any strict rules of law, but are at liberty to make such equitable constructions as they think proper, in cases that require them so to do. They have a superior court ; and also an inferior court, which is properly a court of common pleas ; for, in this latter court, all suits in relation to right and property are commenced. But, from the judgment of this inferior court, they have a power of appealing to the court above ; which originally was intended in extraordinary cases only, but now has become common : and from hence it is that I apprehend they may in time be led into great inconveniences and delays which will be prejudicial to them.

And, indeed, I think it's a great inconveniency to honest suitors already. For the inferior court, at this day, is little better than a stumbling-block in the road to justice ; for, after a fruitless travelling through this court, which side soever the verdict goes against generally appeals to the court above, for the sake of delay, as writs of error are generally brought in England. But that which greatly contributes to delay here is, they have commonly a second hearing of the cause in the inferior court, before they remove it to the superior :

and this second trial they call "reviewing of the cause;" but it is what is called, in England, "trying of the cause."

And when they come to the court above, after the cause has undergone a litigation there, then follows a second trial there also, which they also call "reviewing of the cause;" and thus three or four causes arise out of every one. By which means, it is commonly two years, and often longer, before any one can take the benefit of his suit, supposing death, nor any other accident, to befall the parties in the intervening space of time, which is possible there may; and, if it should so happen, the suitor is sure to be much longer delayed, if not totally deprived of his property in the end. There is another privilege they have, which, without doubt, was intended for their good, though commonly now made use of to oppress one another: I mean, that of appealing over to England to the King in Council, as it is called. I have heard many of them argued at the cockpit, when attending on my Lord Chief-Justice. This right of appealing does not extend to any thing in controversy that is under the value of four hundred pounds sterling; but they may, notwithstanding that, appeal over, by way of complaint, in lesser matters, where they suggest that justice has been denied them here. So that the above limitation is, in fact, no bar to any one appealing in the most trivial matters, if the expense is not too great; for it is easy to suggest the want of justice, when they know that will answer the end. This gives the rich, litigious man an opportunity to oppress his poor neighbor.

As to criminal matters, they are very tender in punishing of them; and very rarely put any to death, unless it be for murder. By their law, robbing on the highway, or burglary, for the first offence, branding on the forehead only; for the second offence, branding again and whipping; and, for the third offence, death. Blasphemy is punished with death. A child, for striking or cursing a parent, to be punished with death, if upwards of sixteen years of age. Cruel punishments or correction of either children, servants, or slaves, prohibited. Nor may any court of justice condemn any offender to receive more than forty stripes. No orphan may be disposed of by their guardian, without the consent of one of the courts. The minority of women, in respect of marriage, is determined to be under sixteen. They have many other laws relating to their religious and civil government; but I take those already mentioned to be the most material.

To the inferior court they have four judges, and to the superior court they have five judges. The reason they give me for their having five judges in the superior court is, that it prevents causes being hung up, by the judges being equally divided in their opinions in points of law; and they insist upon it, that we in England are defective in not having an odd one upon the bench, to prevent the like inconveniences. I do remember, indeed, that in our court of common pleas, in the reign of Edward III., the history of those times mentions nine justices to have been in that court at one time; in King John's time, six; and in Edward I.'s time, five. All the difference in either of the courts here between chief justices and puisnes is, that the writs are tested in the names of the former; their honor, power, and salaries being equal.

The judges here have no robes, nor other marks of distinction, to denote their dignity, nor officer of State of any kind whatsoever. Their judges' pay is exceedingly poor: it is no more than five hundred pounds per annum, of their currency; which is short of one hundred pounds sterling. There are no regular counsel at the bar; but the attorney, by the general appellation of "lawyer," conducts the cause from first to last. But, were you to hear them shriek and scream out their oratory before the court and jury, you would think they as well deserved to be compared with our solicitor-general, or some other of the first-rate gentlemen at the bar, as a common ballad-singer does with the celebrated Faranello.

They don't make up any record of the causes, as we do, at *nisi prius*; but the attorney reads the complaint contained in the declaration, and, at the same time, acquaints the court with the nature of the proof, and so proceed to give evidence. But notwithstanding they differ very much from what I have seen in the courts in England, yet I think the judges seem to aim at doing impartial justice between the contending parties, and hear both sides with all the temper and indulgence that possibly can be, so long as they have any thing to offer; and, if either the plaintiff or defendant think proper to say any thing in their own cause, the court never refuses to hear them, and all the judges sit in every cause.

Their method of raising money for the use of the public is by these three ways, — by a land-tax; a poll-tax upon the males only; and also by a tax upon personal estates, which they call the "faculty," but we in England call it stock. This tax upon land is not like ours in England, that takes a fourth part of a man's estate, and, if

in houses, sometimes, as it may happen, the better half. The tax upon land here don't amount to a penny an acre, sterling; and the other taxes are equally easy in their nature. The manner of levying and collecting their taxes here is something like unto what I have often wished might take place in England, instead of the people being for ever harassed with tax-gatherers at their doors, of various kinds; which are now become almost as numerous and odious in England as the publicans formerly were among the Romans. The government here comprises all their wants in one, — parochial and every other demand they have upon the people, — of which they make out a bill once a year, mentioning the several particulars that each house is chargeable for, with the sum total at the bottom, and time given for payment, — which is generally about two months after the delivery of the bills; which being paid, they rest undisturbed till that time twelve-month comes about again. And, if there be any surplus, it is applied to the next year's accounts; and the people are sure to have the benefit of it, for they have no placeman nor secret services to provide for as yet. Their representatives are paid for attending on the public business, at so much per diem, as the Parliament in England formerly were; and, as those gentlemen are liable to pay equally with others, they are as watchful as possible to prevent all manner of unnecessary expenses. And, as the people know their representatives gain by every single penny they save the public, it prevents all jealousies of their doing them justice, and, at the same time, moves them to pay their taxes with great cheerfulness.

Money, or Currency.

As to money, they have no sort of coin among them, — nothing but paper bills, which are issued by the Governor and Council; but, being made current, they answer the same end as money among themselves. And the people in common had much rather take those bills for any thing they sell than gold or silver, notwithstanding many of them are so miserably fractured, that, in passing from one to another, they often fall into three or four pieces; and many of them are joined together in several places, and are so obliterated with their being often handled, that they are difficult to be understood by those that are unused to them. But, upon application to the treasury, they change them without any expense. The discount between those bills and sterling is four hundred and fifty cents at present; that is, five hundred and fifty pounds of this currency is equal to one hundred pound

sterling. But they are variable ; being governed by the rise and fall of bills of exchange. Some of those bills are so low as threepence ; which is something more than a penny sterling. English half-pence are much used here for change, and are very valuable here. They pass current here at threepence apiece ; which is twopence in every shilling sterling above the common course of exchange. I have made inquiry among the merchants of the reason of their being without a coin ; and they say the balance of trade with England is so much against them, that they cannot keep any money amongst them : of which they have had the experience, having once had a coin of their own, but were soon stripped of it, so that they had not enough left for their necessary uses ; and that obliged them to have recourse to this method of making bills. There is still a great deal of both English and foreign gold and silver in the hands of the merchants ; but they use it only as merchandise, and buy and sell it only by weight, to send to England in return for goods. And the country folks are all of them so averse to any sort of coin, that one may as well offer them pebble-stones as gold and silver for any thing one wants to buy of them ; and they will much sooner credit any stranger that comes from England than take their money, unless it be half-pence.

Of their Cattle for the Coach, Saddle, and Ordinary Draught ; with their Manner of Travelling, Diversions, and Amusements.

There are several families in Boston that keep a coach, and pair of horses, and some few drive with four horses ; but for chaises and saddle-horses, considering the bulk of the place, they outdo London. They have some nimble, lively horses for the coach, but not any of that beautiful large black breed so common in London. Their saddle-horses all pace naturally, and are generally counted sure-footed ; but they are not kept in that fine order as in England. The common draught-horses used in carts about the town are very small and poor, and seldom have their fill of any thing but labor. The country carts and wagons are generally drawn by oxen, from two to six, according to the distance of place, or burden they are laden with. When the ladies ride out to take the air, it is generally in a chaise or chair, and then but a single horse ; and they have a negro servant to drive them. The gentlemen ride out here as in England, some in chairs, and others on horseback, with their negroes to attend them. They travel in much the same manner on business as for pleasure, and are attended

in both by their black equipages. Their roads, though they have no turnpikes, are exceeding good in summer; and it is safe travelling night or day, for they have no highway robbers to interrupt them. It is pleasant riding through the woods; and the country is pleasantly interspersed with farm-houses, cottages, and some few gentlemen's seats, between the towns. But the best of their inns, and houses of entertainment, are very short of the beauty and conveniences of ours in England. They have generally a little rum to drink, and some of them have a sorry sort of Madeira wine. And to eat they have Indian corn roasted, and bread made of Indian meal, and sometimes a fowl or fish dressed after a fashion, but pretty good butter, and very sad sort of cheese; but those that are used to those things think them tolerable.

For their domestic amusements, every afternoon, after drinking tea, the gentlemen and ladies walk the Mall, and from thence adjourn to one another's houses to spend the evening, — those that are not disposed to attend the evening lecture; which they may do, if they please, six nights in seven, the year round.

What they call the Mall is a walk on a fine green Common adjoining to the south-west side of the town. It is near half a mile over, with two rows of young trees planted opposite to each other, with a fine footway between, in imitation of St. James's Park; and part of the bay of the sea which encircles the town, taking its course along the north-west side of the Common, — by which it is bounded on the one side, and by the country on the other, — forms a beautiful canal, in view of the walk.

Their rural diversions are chiefly shooting and fishing. For the former, the woods afford them plenty of game; and the rivers and ponds with which this country abounds yield them great plenty, as well as variety, of fine fish.

The government being in the hands of dissenters, they don't admit of plays or music-houses; but, of late, they have set up an assembly, to which some of the ladies resort. But they are looked upon to be none of the nicest in regard to their reputation; and it is thought it will soon be suppressed, for it is much taken notice of and exploded by the religious and sober part of the people. But, notwithstanding plays and such like diversions do not obtain here, they don't seem to be dispirited nor moped for want of them; for both the ladies and gentlemen dress and appear as gay, in common, as courtiers in England on a coronation or birthday. And the ladies here visit, drink

tea, and indulge every little piece of gentility, to the height of the mode; and neglect the affairs of their families with as good a grace as the finest ladies in London.

The President communicated the following letters, which had been caused to be copied, and kindly sent to him, while in England, by W. Noël Sainsbury, Esq., who is about to publish an elaborate Calendar of the Colonial State Papers preserved in the State-paper Department of her Majesty's Public-record Office. They are found on pages 63 and 67 of vol. vi. of "Colonial Correspondence."

John Winthrop to John White.

JULY 4. 1632.

REVEREND & WORTHYE SIR, I salute you in the Lorde, beinge much comforted to heare of your healthe & in the hope at lengthe to see & enjoye you heere that you may reape some fruite of all your labours care & coste bestowed upon this worke of the Lorde.

I wrote to you by the last return, how I had undertaken to paye them of Dorchester for Jo. Gallop & Dutche theire wages which M^r Ludlowe did accompt to receive part heere & part in England so as I marvayle you should have any further trouble about it. I have also payd Jo: Elford the remainder of his wages being xli. & other accounts heere, so as I thinke there is now nothing to be demanded for suche reckonings. I have disbursed above 300*l*. for the companyes engagements heere but I have some cattle & olde kettles &c for it, & I hope more then enoughe to satisfie me.

I have muche difficultye to keepe John Galloppe heere by reason his wife will not come, I marvayle at her womans weaknesse, that she will live myserably with her children there, when she might live comfortably with her husband heere. I praye perswade & further her coming by all meanes, if she will come let her have the remainder of his wages, if not let it be bestowed to bring over his children, for so he desires. It would be above 40*l*. losse to him to come for her.

The Surveyor of our Ordinance is now returned home; we were lothe to part with him, but his longing after his native countrye will

not be stilled. He hath received of me xii^l. 16s. for a yeare & quarter service & 5^l. I procured him from the Court (though I am forced to disburse it) his diet he hath had of me with his Lodging & washing all the tyme he hath been heere, yet if his passage be payd he will not have above 8^l. lefte which will not suffice to apparrell him & carrye him into Germanye. I praye Sir, make use of your old facultye to helpe him with some small matter more for his better accommodation *

John Gallop hath written to some of your neighbours for 12 Dozen of Cod Lines. If he provide them & bring them to you I praye deliver him this bill inclosed, if not I desire you to furnish us so farre as this bill will goe & some Cod Hookes also. Thus earnestly desiring your prayers & longing for your presence I commend you to the Lord & rest

Your assured in the Lords worke

JO : WINTHROP.

MASSACHUSETTS July 4th 1632

I would send salutations to my Brother & Sister Staiton (?) but fere they are dead for I have written divers Letters to them but never received anye.

(Addressed)

To his Reverend & verie loving Freinde Mr. JOHN WHITE,
Minister of the Gospell these delyver

[Bill inclosed in the above letter.]

BROTHER DOWNINGE, I praye paye unto this bearer by the allowance of M^r John White of Dorchester twelve pounds It is for fishing lines to be sent me into Newe England So I rest

Your loving brother

JO : WINTHROP.

MASSACHUSETTS IN NEW ENGLAND

July 4. 1632.

* The Records of the Colony, as recently published by the State, disclose the unfamiliar name of "the Surveyor of our Ordinance," mentioned in the foregoing letter.

At a Court of Assistants, 1th March, 1630-1631, "Jost Weillust is chosen Survey^r of the ordinance & cannounere, for which hee is to haue allowed him 10^l. p^r ann." — Vol. i. p. 83.

At a Court, July 3, 1632, "It is ordered, that Joist Weillust shall haue allowed him v^l. towards his transportacon into his owne country, whith^r, according to his desire, hee hath free leaue to goe." — *Ib.*, p. 97.

John Winthrop & John Wilson to Doctor Stoughton.

OCT^r 1632.

REVEREND & WORTHY SIR, We may be bould to let you knowe (upon certaine intelligence which hath come to us) that we have hearde with much joye to our hearts of the disposition of your thoughts towards us, or rather towards the Lords worke begunne heere, for the spreadinge of the Gospell in these Western parts of the World. Withall we have taken notice of that good reporte you have amonge the Saints, & of those gifts the Lord hathe furnished you with for this service. Whereupon we thought good to let you understand & to give you what firm assurance we may of our stronge desires towards you. We meane not of our selves onely but of the Church of Boston whereof we are and althoughe we dare not press you with importunitie of Arguments (beinge conscious of our owne unworthynes of so great a blessing) to come into New England and helpe us, yet we assure you it would muche adde to the Comfort of our selves & our incouragement in the hope of muche successe in this way the Lord hath Sett us in, if it may please him to send you unto us, by the return of this bearer with a minde so prepared, as upon your discerninge the state of our Congregation & the affections of our people towards you, & our acquaintance with you, & knowledge of your abilityes, you might be joyned to us in the office of the Ministrie. Now good Sir, we beseeche you that this may suffice to perswade your hearte this motion proceeds from the trueth of our desires towards you and the apprehension of our owne want of suche helpe as the Lord hathe enabled you to afforde us; & for all other matters which you shall desire to be informed of, to receive satisfaction from this bearer M^r Peirce, our most faithfull freind & brother in Christ till whose returne (by the good providence of the Lorde) we shall sitt downe & expect your resolution, in the meane tyme we crave the helpe of your prayers & so comendinge you & all yours to the Lords most just & holy disposinge in this & in all your occasions, with most hearty salutations we take leave & rest

Yours Lowly in the Lorde

Jo : WINTHROP
JOHN WILSON

BOSTON IN MASSACHUSETTS IN NEW-ENGLAND

October 1632

(addressed)

To our Reverend & Right Worthy Freind Mr. DOCTOR STOUGHTON

These del^r

The President also communicated the following valuable historical papers, which he had himself caused to be transcribed from the Colonial Series in the same office : —

Narrative [addressed to Secretary Coke?] concerning the settlement of New England. — 1630.

RIGHT HON^{BLE} Concerning that part of America which wee call New England, the French claime it as being first discovered by them. For about 100 yeares since, one Jacques Cartyer a French man discovered that country & called it Nova Francia but never attempted to plant the same untill the yeare of our Lord 1603 the French king graunted a patent to Monsieur de Monts, one [of] his Gentlemen in Ordinarie of his Chamber, of soe much of that country as lyeth betwene the degrees of 40 & 46 which containeth all the Country from Hudsons River, where the Dutch are, to the great river of Canada where the French are

As Boterus
noteth in his
discription of
New France.

The French
Patents
beare date
8th of Nov^r
1603.

In March 1604 Mon^r de Mounts begann his voyadge with two shippes & having landed his men at Port Royall, the same yeare coasted sowthward purposing to discover the Bay of the Massachusetts (where the English are now planted) & coming nere to the Mouth of the Bay it seemed to him verie dangerous for rocks & shoulles so he went not in but sent his boate to the shoare with kettles for freshe water which an Indian stole away; one of the French running after him to recover his kettles was killed by the natives, soe the shipp returned to Port Royall

1604

In Anno 1605 Mons^r de Pont prosecuted the same discovery (purposing to plant in the said Bay) were twice driven backe & the third time the shipp splitt uppon the rocks at the entry of the Port

1605

Mons^r de Pontrincourt prosecuted the same discovery & coming nere to the Bay their rudder brake soe they could not enter the Bay, yet made to shoare nere thereunto where they mended the rudder & built an oven to bake some biskett, but the Indians came suddenly on them & slew some of them & forced the rest to fly to their shipp, & soe they returned calling the Bay by the name of Molebarre which is the common name therof among the French to this day.

1606

These 3 un-
fortunate at-
tempts are
largely sett
downe in a
booke trans-
lated out of
French &
dedicated to
Prince He-
nery by P.
Erondelle

About 16 yeares past an other french man being nere the Massachusetts uppon a Fishing voyadge & to discover the Bay was cast

1616

Capt Smith
mentioneth
this in his
booke called
"The Path-
way to Plan-
tations." But
I had the
most certaine
relation
thereof from
Mr. Oldham
who went to
N. England
presently
after this
plague.

The Indians
affirme there
was never
such a sick-
nes there
before.

away, one old man escaped to shoare whom the Indians preserved alive, & after a yeare or two he having obtained some knowledge in their language, perceiving how they worshipped the Devill, he used all the meanes he could to perswade them from this Horrible Idolatrye to the Worship of the Trew God, wheruppon the Sagamore called all his people to him to know if they would follow the advise of this good old man, but all answered with one consent that they would not change their God & mocked & laughed at the French man & his God. Then said he, I feare that God in his anger will destroy you. Then said the Sagamore, Your God hath not thus manie people, neither is he able to destroy us. Whereupon the French man said, that he did verily feare his God would destroy them & plant a better people in the land; but they continued still mocking him & his God untill the plague came which was the yeare following & continued for 3 yeares untill it had swept almost all the people out of that country for about 60 miles together upon the Sea Coast.

1623

A goodly Bay
& country
not yet plant-
ed lying be-
tweene Vir-
ginia & N.
England.

The yeare after this great Plague which was about 1623 there went a Shipp hence with about 120 men women & children to plant in De la ware Bay who being nere the Massachusetts mett with such crosse windes that in a fortnights space the Shipp could make noe way forwards but everie day in danger to perish, soe they were forced to make to the next Shoare which is about 25 miles to the South of the Massachusetts, where they landed all safe, where they presently raised some small fortification with Trees Bushes & Earth to defend themselves against the natives, but after a while perceiving none to approach they sent some to discover the Country who returned saying they found manie dead bones & places where people had been, but saw noe man, at length 2 Indians came to them & told them how the people were dead, & if they would inhabit there they might, & desired leave to live by them. Shortly after some few other Indians came alsoe to them, whoe in like manner desired their protection against their enemies & to settle by them. This Plantation through manie difficulties & losses are now creeping forwards & doe beginn to thrive, being encreased to about 500 people

1629
Mr. Winthrop
& divers
other gent:
went in those
6 shippes
This was the
cause of
their send-
ing home for
Corne.

This yeare there went hence 6 shippes with 1000 people in them to the Massachusetts having sent two yeares before betweene 3 & 400 servants to provide howses & Corne against their coming, to the charge of (at least) 10,000^l., these Servants through Idlenes & ill Government neglected both their building & plantinge of Corne,

soe that if those 6 Shippes had not arived the plantation had ben broke & dissolved. Now so soone as M^r. Winthrop was landed, perceiving what misery was like to ensewe through their Idlenes, he presently fell to worke with his owne hands, & thereby soe encouraged the rest that there was not an Idle person then to be found in the whole Plantation & wheras the Indians said they would shortly retorne as fast as they came, now they admired to see in what short time they had all housed themselves & planted Corne sufficient for their subsistance

In three things the Providence of God is worthy of observation

First — The French attempts to plant this Land & their discouragements through shipwracks & otherwise

Second — How the English sithence this Plantation began have had all their Shippes (employed thither) well arrived & safe returned againe

Third — The destruction of the Indians above 60 miles along the Coast & almost as much into the Land, whereby way was made for the peaceable planting of our people.

(Endorsed by Sec^r. Coke)

New England Narrative

The Petition of Edward Winslow to [the Lords of the Council, while he was a prisoner in the Fleet, in London, 1634.]

Your Petitioner humbly beesecheth your Lordships further to consider, —

First That whereas he confessed that he had both spoken by way of exhortation to the people & married, yet that it was in america and at such a time as necessity constrained them that were there not only to these but to many other things far differing from a settled common weale. And if he had bene here would not have married nor should have needed to preach, as your Lordships terme it, but having no Minister in 7 or 8 yeares at least, some of us must doe both or else for want of the one, we might have lost the life & face of Christianity; and if the other which is marriage had bene neglected all that time we might become more brutish then the heathen when as in doing it we did but follow the presedent of other reformed churches.

Second — That however we disliked many things in practice here in respect of church ceremony yet chose rather to leave the country

then be accounted troublers of it, & therefore went into Holland. And that from thence we procured a motion to be made to his Ma^{tie} of late & famous memory for liberty of Conscience in America, under his gracious protection which his Ma^{tie} thinking very reasonable (as Sir Rob^t Naunton principall Secretary to the State in that time can testifie) we cheerfully proceeded & afterwarde procured a commission for the ordering of our body politick. And have so demeaned our selves from that time to this & we can give a good account of our loyalty towards his Ma^{tie} & have showed loving respect and reliefe to others his Subjects in their extremities

Third — That we were so tender of his Ma^{ties} honor as we would not enter into League with any the natives that would not together with ourselves acknowledge our Sovereigne for their king as appeareth by a writing to that end, whereunto their knowne markes are prefixed

Fourth — That however the maine objection against us is that we are Brownists, Factious, Puritanes, Schismatickes &c. If there be any position we hold contrary to the Word of God, contrary to the Royall honor of a king & due allegiance of a Subject, then let his Ma^{tie} reject us & take all severe courses against us. But if we be found truly Loyall we humbly entreate to be embraced & encouraged as subjects, & that we may still enjoy the gracious liberty granted by his Royall Father & hetherto enjoyed under his Ma^{ties} happy Government, who daily pray for his Majestie — his royall heires & Successors.

Fifth — That however we follow the discipline rather of other the reformed churches then this yet the accusation is false, that we require of those who joine in Church Communion with us to censure the Church of England & her Bishops all we require being to render by reason of that faith & hope they have in Christ which together with a good testimony of an honest life wee admitt them, not meddling further with the Church of England then as we are bound to pray for the good thereof

Sixth — That the Countrey of New England is fruitfull where we live as well for English graine as Indian the aire temperate, agreeing with our Bodies, the Sea rich in Fish, the Havens commodious. The Northern parts thereof for which we must contend with the French, if this State enjoy them able to supply the navy of England with Masts if need require. The Sowthern for which we contest with the Dutch being like to prove as serviceable for Cordage by reason of

the abundance of hemp & flax that groweth naturally; All which by our Industry if his Ma^{tie} & the State be pleased to continue our liberty of conscience, to keep open the passage of such as will resort to us, & give us so free a commission for displanting french & Dutch as planting the places by us his Ma^{ties} loyall Subjects, your Honours shall soone see his Ma^{ties} Revenues of Customs by reason of this Plantation enlarged many thousands per annum & this Kingdome supplied with many necessities it wanteth, when as England shall onely part with a part of her overcharged multitudes w^{ch} she can better misse then beare & for which God hath plentifully provided in the other.

Seventh. Consider, I beseech your Lordships, what our adversaries that accuse us are, & you shall see them to be such as *Morton* who hath been twice sent hither as a Delinquent, first for that he furnished the Natives with peeces, powder & shot & taught them the use of them. 2^{ndly} by my Lord Chief Justice Hides Warrant to answer to the murther of a person specified therein. Such like was *Sir Christopher Gardner* a Knight of the Sepulchre & a Jesuited gentleman as appeareth by a Diary of his owne under his hand which is extant in the countrey aforesaid. A third they offered the last yeare for testimony against us was one *Dixie Bull* who was out in Piracy at the same time & after went to the French &c. These & such like who are enemies to all goodness are the men that trouble & grieve the State with false accusations & cause them to be prejudiced against us the well deserving subjects of his royall Ma^{tie}.

Eighth. Whereas they have formerly accused us unjustly with correspondency with French & Dutch, Themselves may justly be suspected who cannot doe the French & Dutch better service then by going about to perswade the State here to deprive us of our Liberty of Conscience, graunted as aforesaid, as also of our freedome of Government, & set such a Governor over us as will impose the same things upon us we went thither to avoid. And if your Lordships for want of due information, I speake with all submissive reverence, should send such a governor as between whom & the countrey there is personall distaste & difference, he might be more prejudiciall to the Plantations then the swords of French and Dutch which your Petitioner humbly beseecheth your Lordships to consider

Ninth That we give a reall testimony to our Loyalty by the present possession we maintaine by force at a great charge against the Dutch and the great losses we sustaine by the French. In which

cases I came to seeke the pleasure of the State, being so tender of his Ma^{ties} & your Lopps. displeasure, as we durst attempt no further designe without your hon^{ble} approbation; yet assure myself Right Hon^{ble} the enemy durst not have attempted what is past nor threaten as at present & wherof I can informe, if it bee desired, unlesse encouraged by some English

Lastly — Consider I beseech your Honours that the same persons to whom as I concieve your Lordships promised large Commission for plantinge the countrey & displantinge French & Dutch, & which intend God permitinge to use their best endeavour thereabout if your Lordships thinke meet to refer the ordering thereof to us that offer to beare the charge on those termes, doe all now suffer by me their agent who cannot by reason of mine imprisonment provide a fitt & seasonable supply for the Plantation or be assured any Commission or encouragement but the Contrary; when as the adversaries in the meane time have too great advantage against us, who by credible report intend to assault the Plantations this ensuing spring

All which your Petitioner humbly beseecheth your Lordships to take into your hon^{ble} consideration, That a Countrey so hopefull be not ruinated, his Ma^{ties} abused & his faithfull subjects vexed & destroyed, and not onely your Petitioner but many thousands his Ma^{ties} loyall subjects will be further bound to pray for a recompence of your honourable care

Your Lordships humble servant dejected by your displeasure

EDW : WYNSLOW

[Endorsed by Sec^{ty} Coke]

NEW ENGLAND

(Endorsed) "*A relation concerning some occurences in New England*"
(Capt. Israel Stoughton to Dr. Stoughton his brother)

Grace & peace be with you & yo^{rs} in Christ

A relation
of y^e diffie:
at New Eng-
land.

DEERE BROTHER There coming this frend M^r Patricson (M^r Cra-docks agent here) so happilie in the spring, I thought I would not omit to write a word, & but a word bec: I hope to have many oportunies more this su^mer: tho as yet we have not a ship come nor know not certaynly whither we shall, only we heare of many and hope the best. We are generally in good health: I and my familie have enjoyed our health I bless God with very little interuption from the beginning. Here are divers things where of I would write more fully to you

about, but I am willing to waite a while, & shall do it hereafter. It is like you will heare of many of them more or lesse there, but I hope God will give you & others that feare God there wisdome to judge of things wisely, and not beleieve all that is reported with all aggravations and additions as are usuall in such cases. much you will heare I suppose about the crosse in the banners & many things true; for tis true Capt. Indicot did defase it upon his owne private head, and is now left out of place of government: & his fact publicly protested agaynst by the greater part of the country, & the ministers, and some of the magistrates too: It is also true some of the magistrates with some ministers, and divers of the people do apprehend it an idoll unlawful to be continued in so honorable a pleace & time to be abolished; & therefore do strongly incline that way; but tis all so true the greatest part esteeme no such daunger in it: but do desire to informe themselves well in the point, & then to be zealous according to knowledge & all judgment; not being willing to abuse their Christian liberty to licentiousness before God nor yet to a needless making of friends enimies, or to the prevoaking of those against us who are willing to lett us alone.

So that now the truth is this hath bred some evill blood in our body, & I feare will be a greater crosse & more wildy to beare then the former: it hath already caused no little alienation of affection, strife, sensuring on their parts who are so zealous for the Crosse its rejection against, & almost contemning their brethren that have not beene so opiniated & affected as themselves, & the truth is if anything would have done it, that party that so deeply condemns the simple use of the crosse in banners, had overborne & chrusht the other party tho the bigger most by farr; such was their zeale & potencie: but as yet it is not come to that point for the conclusion is, Councell shall be further taken of God, and the learned wise & godly there with you; and in the mean time there shall be a pause; and if there be any need of banners those that will may use their old as they are, without any alteration. And the party that did that fact must stand upon his owne bottom to answer for his attempt; for the greater part of ministers & country have washt their hands of it. finally for to end this matter: had not M^r. Hooker & the rest of the ministers stept in, & with great strength appeared against the contrary part, it had not beene as it is, & yet I daresay the greater number of the magistrates are best pleasd that it is thus & no other wise as well as the people. I forbear to mention per-

sons & particular passages bec: I will give none offence nor occasion : but I suppose you may informe yoursselve by M^r. Patricson & M^r. Craddock if you shall desire more full relations.

2. Here hath been somew^t to doo too about a negative voyce for the magistrates would that no law nor act of court should be currant & establisht (excepting choyce of magistrates) unlesse the greater number of magistrates present do allso approve & consent to it, tho all country & 3 of 7 of the magistrates do like & desire it, & they plead the pattent allows them this power & some allso have well likt it, others have not likt it, & now the greater number by farr I suppose 5 or 10 for one & of the ministers too are of an other mind : I know none that have read the pattent (excepting Magistrates) that esteeme it their due, but yet many more willing to have condescended to it at the first, whose minds are now changed. The conclusion of that businesse is ; it sleeps in silence, & is so like : for it is concluded by some that the magistrates hereafter will never aske it : nor the people never give it : but only thus : that whereas now our courts for making lawes consist of the body of the magistrates, & 3 comitties chose by every towne to joyne with them : that there shall be power of suspencion on either party in cases where they agree not, untill the mind of the whole body of the country may conveniently be knowne : & then the issue to be on the major parts side according to the pattent : & so both tumultousnes, & many mischeifs may be prevented. this was at first proposed & approved by ministers & country : but not by Magistrates.

3. Here hath not beene a little to do about my selfe, & tho I am unwilling to make any large relation of my owne things : yet because I know you will heare many things, I dare not omit to write something, both in faithfullnesse to you & my selfe, for I do not know how relations may be made w^{ch} may much trouble you, unlesse you have some certaynty. W^t therefore I write recon it to be true impartially as you esteeme of me impartial or otherwise : Take the relation thus When I came into the country for one whole yeare after, the government was solely in the hands of the assistants, the people chose them magistrates, & then they made lawes, disposd lands, raisd monies, punnisht offenders &c, att their discretion : neither did the people know the pattent nor w^t prorogative & liberty they had by the same : But there being some somes of money rayسد : & a speech of more, it made some inquisitive into matters & particularly after the pattent : about w^{ch} time M^r. Wentthrop go^d having

the pattend did give way to the country upon their motion to see it, & all the magistrates (as in charitie I must say) were willing to admitt the people to joyne with themselves in the governance of the State, by 3 deputies for each towne. So in may, last yeare there was a generall court, wherein things were so agitated: In w^{ch} court I was by our towne chose a comitty: & by the comitties chose the cheife speaker on the countrys behalfe (there being 3 speakers). & indeed such was their good opinion of me (unworthy I confesse) that they would have chose me into an assistants place but that they said they needed me more there for the present. So that court passed & tho their was a little opposition in one particular case yet all ended in peace with manifestations of great love & the magistrates good approbation of us that had in some points opposed & crost them, at least some of Boston where M^r. Winthrop dwells.

Then there was a 2nd court about August last not for choyce of Magistrates but for makeing lawes &c, where I was allso both a comitty & speaker, (as before) In that court there were some more strait passages, & specially about the negative voyce, w^{ch} fell to be my portion much to oppose, tho not alone: In w^{ch} court time, M^r. Wentthrop, & my selfe had accidently some privat discourse about the pattent & the power of assistants & Gov^r: so likewise had one M^r. Ludlow an assistant, & dwelling in Dorchester where I live: but the conclusion of the court was all peace & love, & no manifestations of any thing to the contrary: Nay M^r. Wentthrop having somewhat harshly & unadvisedly taken up a young man a Comitteey, came after in privat to me, & excused himselfe, & professed to me: that for that young mans part & myne, tho we had much opposed him, yet the more he honored us both in his very hart: adding that he saw our aymes & ends were good. So that court finist.

Then there was agayne a 3^o court that yeare, in March last, cheiffly caled about Captayne Indcott his fact about the crosse: where I was agayne a comitteey, & a speaker but not the cheife, bec: M^r. Bellingum a great man & a lawier was then a comitty, & he was cheif speaker. Now after I was chose, great probabilitie there was that the negative voyce would be questiond, where upon many lay hard upon me to give them my reasons in writing why I refused to yeeld it so as they had desired it: we^h I utterly refused a good while, till at length 3 men of our Church came to me in the name of M^r. Warhum (our pastor) to entreat it of me, saying that the ministers were to meet about it, & he much desired my reasons

before they mett, & they prest my conscience that I sinned if I refused, hereupon having but now halfe a daies time to do it in, I notwithstanding condescended, & gave (it being one sheet of paper) 12 reasons of my refusall to give them such a negative as they challenged. Now no sooner had M^r. Warum the thing, but he (without my privitie) carries it to the ministers presents it at their meeting: w^{ch} for aught I ever heard was well approved by every man of them. Sure I am 4 of them did come to me & give me large thanks & applaws for the thing, & M^r. Cotten that had preacht at first for the Magistrates having a negative (tho afterward yeilded to a stopping voyce only such as before I expressed) desired the paper, tooke it home, & finding some of the reasons to be grounded upon the pattent, he not well understanding the pattent did (as he profest to me) in the simplicities of his hart send them to Mr. Wentthrop, to be resolvd in some points of the pattent who as it seemes by the sequile tooke such distast at them & me for them that movd him to w^t followes.

The day of the court coming (for I knew not a tittle of ought untill the minut of time that I was accused) In the morning he posseseth the governor with my booke, & soo soone as ever we were mett, all the country being put out, save magistrates, comitteys, & ministers. The governor & some of the magistrates, charge me for writing a book against the Magistrates, & for denying them to be Magistrates, & so fell into such bitter tearmes against me as was much, if it had beene proved. *For M^r. Wentthrop said of me, this is the man that had beene the troubler of Israel, and that I was a worme (such an one as M^r. Hooker had spoke of in his sermon) and an underminer of the State: & yet saith he who but M^r. Stoughton in the eir of the country.* And saith he I had from a speciall frend (I suppose it was D^r. Wright) a letter of good report of me, that I was a man worthy of his acquaintance, but I had never come at him (wherein I confesse I have beene something fayling through shamefastness & a naturall defect that way, yet I have beene with him divers times, & allwaies shew^d him great respect, as allso and in truth he had done to me above my deserts. But now to the point. They chargd my booke for this & that. One thing was that I should say in it, that I by my fact had freed the State so & so; Now this I utterly denyed, that had not so written & the booke was read, & so read as that it did expressly so speake: at w^{ch} I was amazed & desired to see it my selfe, & I confesse there wanted a comā, but that being added they all confessed the sence was quite otherwise, & so were silenced in that

point, & it was so playne without a comma that no man excepted at it till M^r. Wentthrop, nor did any make such sence of it but he, & such as he had possesst. But then the mayne accusation w^{ch} they stuck too was that I denyed the Assistants to be Magistrates, & made them but Ministers of Justice &c. w^{ch} charge I denied, and affirmed I never did deny them to be Magistrates, tho I allso did say they were Ministers of justice, & might without dishono^r. be caled Ministers as well as Magistrates both by the rule of the word Rom. 13. 2 & the custome of London whose printed oath for all freemen stilles the Aldermen by that terme & title, thus, the Maior & all other Ministers of the Citty, and so comprehends the Aldermen 3^d & by the rule of the pattent, & with respect to the pattent, & to general Courts assembled: for I had written thus in it (the reasons against the negative) the pattent makes their power Ministeriall according to the greater voat of the generall courts, & not Magisteriall according to their owne discrecion. These were my very expressions, whereby I intended & ment that their power call it ministeriall, or magisteriall, or magistraticall (w^{ch} you will) was not so great that they could do ought, or hinder ought simply according to their owne wills, but they must eir & respect generall courts, w^{ch} by pattent consist of the whole company of freemen. And this is in very deed the magistrates owne judgment, & the judgment of every man in the land, that hath exprest himselfe, & yet for this my expression they would have me to affirme, they were no Magistrates: & these my words should be a prooffe of it. Other words they took great offence at, but instances in no-other but these 2. I confesse there were some others that were very playne English such as to some is offensive: but I know little reason it should be to any: sure I am it was no other then such as I would allow & most desire from my meanest servant in any cause wherein he hath to deale with me.

But much a doe their was, & because it was adjudged by some it would much please & pacifie them if I would desire that it might be burnt, at leangth for peace sake, & to show how little I esteeme ought of myne, I said let the booke be burnt if it please them, to give them content I regarded it not. So that business ended, yet so that they caused it to be recorded, that such a thing was burnt as weake & offensive.

But still they were not pacified towards me, but would have it be that I denied them to be magistrates, & for the further prooffe of that point, M^r. Wentthrop & M^r. Ludlow of whome I spake before, did

affirme to the court upon their credit (without oath) that I had in the time of the last court (before when I had some conference with them as I told you before about their power & autoritie) sayd to them, that the Assistants were not Magistrates, So that tho I had constantly denied it, & had allso unknowne to me then, a wittness that can upon oath testifie that my words to M^r. Wentthrop did not so import: nor were they any affirmation at all, but meerely thus. In answer to something he had said w^{ch} was, that Assistants had power simply by their places over our persons goods & lives, without any law of ours. I replyed, what is it so? I had thought your power had beene so & not so.

The same wittness allso being an eare wittness of my words to M^r. Ludlo, & a very wise & godly young man (the same that I spake of before that M^r. Wentrop snibd but after did somewhat recant) he being a brother of our church, suspecting that M^r. Ludlo had forsworne himselfe (for he was not now a comitty to heare) did goe in privat (before our 2 ministers, my selfe and an other) to this M^r. Ludlo & begin to deale with him for what he had done, untill that he purgd himselfe thus, by saying he did not give in his wittnesse upon oath.

And so the conclusion of the matter was, that I by way of punishment of that whereof they charged me, must be dissolv'd for bearing any office within this jurisdiction for 3 years w^{ch} was by Magistrates & Comitteys, that is the Major part did then conclude that order, w^{ch} was the mayne businesse of that court in March last. Captayn Indicots busines being referd to the great generall court of May, but the truth is the greatest part of the comitteys did yeeld thereto meerly to give the Magistrates content, I purposing to reverse it agayne with the first opportunitee. M^r. Bellenham made that same apologie unto me in privat and many of the rest that did yeeld (for all did not) & that with teares, & one made *publique accknowledgment in open court afterward that he had sinned & was sorry*. *I should be too teadious to you to relate the severall privat passages of M^r. Cottons, of M^r. Hookers M^r. Wards & other ministers about this businesse, who have beene marvelously affected to see their dealings, especially M^r. Wentthrops, who the truth is had too much forgot & over shott himselfe, as I heare he hath confessed so much publicly this last Court, before all the country in generall, & manifested the particulars to those that were then comitteyes privatly as I have beene told.*

Now followed the great generall Court in May w^{ch} continued 2 daies for the whole body, & is not yet ended (tho proroged) for Ma-

gistrates & Co^mitteyes. This generall Court one M^r. Haynes was chosen governor a very godly man of M^r. Hookers charge. Captayne Indicot is left out partly for his business in the crosse, & partly for other matters. So also our M^r. Ludlow is now no Magistrate: tho within 6 dayes before it was most probable & allmost past question that he would be chosen governor (for we desire to change yeare by yeare the governorship: but the assisstants more rarely, yet sometimes least it be esteemed hereditary. Now he is neither governor nor assistant, so did divine providence dispose it. And I question whither he will ever be Magistrate more, for many have taken great offence at him, the causes I forbear to relate: but they are both wise & godly men that are offended: And not many much sorry.

And to tell you the truth (for it is like you may heare of it from others) M^r. Wentthrop had very many hands agaynst him for being either governor (w^{ch} some attempted) or assistant. The cause, it is like they know best, that put in blanks I suppose they were not his enimies, nor none of the most simple. He hath lost much of that aplaws that he hath had (for indeed he was highly magnified) & I heard some say they putt in blanks, not simply because: they would not have him a magistrate, but because they would admonish him thereby to looke a little more circumspectly to himselfe. He is indeed a man of man: but he is but a man: & some say they have idolized him, & do now confesse their error. My opinion is that God will do him good by some: as also he hath done good to some by him. And that he is a godly man, & a worthy magistrate notwithstanding some few passages, at w^{ch} some have stumbled.

It may be it will be reported there (as some have not spared to speak it here) that those that opposed him, *did it because he was so zealous against the crosse, for he esteems it a gross idoll*: but tho I be now no statsman, nor do I meddle with those affayres, yet thus much I can upon my credit & by intimations I have received informe you, that that was not att all the cause, for others were not so dealt by that were as zealous as he: (Neither was his doings about me the only cause: tho possibly that might a little further it tho I cannot say so expressly:) but there was some other passages that have beene done by him, w^{ch} being observed have made some willing to admonish him in that manner whiles they do not well know how to do it, in a more convenient manner. But such is my opinion of the man, that some might more conveniently have delt with him in a more playne fashion, if they have any greevance. I say some might, I do not say all.

This court Capt: Indicots busines was transacted by the whole country, & after some strong & hard labor brought to the issue forementioned, wherein the ministers did their parts as good midwives, or ells it would not have been altogether so as it is.

This court allso it was intended my business should have beene transacted by the whole body, with a generall vote before the day, that they would doe about it great matters, I that they would, said Comittees, & most in generall: but Capt: Indicots business proved so tiresome & teadious, that their spirits & strength was spent & tho there was petition made by the towne (for for my part I sitt downe in cillence and desire with my whole soule that no more stir may be about it, I looke up to him that knoweth all things, to whome myselfe & all men must one day give account & receive wages according as our workes have beene) that I should have the interpretation of my owne words: w^{ch} was in part granted & I was caled: but because I did not give them so full satisfaction as some desired the thing rests yet as it did: only it is said by some it shall be agitated by the magistrates and comitteys at their next sitting, for the words where of they charged me I can make no interpretation of them: because I can-not say I ever uttered such words: but for my reall opinion about the Assistants reall power I spake in publike court as much & more then ever I spake before, & it was all accepted & taken well without contradiction.

But as I have beene informed since, something they would have from me before they blotted out that order (w^{ch} was the thing petitioned for by the towne to have it blotted out and not to stand to posteritie to defame me as if I had held some annabaptisticall opinion about Magistrates, when they all knew I was innocent, & had not merited such infamie) that so the honor of the court might be maynetayned. This was all that any of them stood upon that ever I heard off.

This large relation when I was once entered I could not forbear for reasons aforesaid, now I leave you to judge when you have heard all as you shall see cause.

But now I beseech you these 2 things. 1. that these things may be privat: only where you shall see good cause: as to my Mother ffor her satisfaction to whom I cannot conveniently make a long relation: allso to others of wise frends If you should heare I were by any traduced and abused, as some or at least one (For I have not heard of more) hath much endeavored to take my good name away here, in a

kind of zeale to M^r Went : but the Lord forgive him and if D^r Wright should heare ought & first enquire of you, I know not w^t information & Comunion there is betweene him & M^r Wentthrop, but I do not passe, if need so be tho he see every tittle that I have writt, but not unless there be cause.

2^d I beseech you let none of these things trouble your, nor any other godly mans spiritts, concerning this place, or the persons, & doings here, as I know persons upon reports are sometimes strangly troubled, & incensed this way & that, to judging, to withdrawing affection to change resolutions & purposes : to chang their minds & take upp new thoughts possibly never to come here &c : for it is true we have weaknesses & wants, & sinns comitted by us, & difference arise : who questions this ? & how can it be otherwise.

(Endorsed)

A relation concerning some occurrences in New England.

(Also endorsed, but scratched thro')

A relation about Boston buysnesses in Lincolnshire

[The spelling, punctuation, and Italics are precisely as copied from the original.]

The last of these papers the President had procured, not merely because it related to an interesting period in our history, but also because it was referred to, in the Calendar of Colonial State Papers, as containing some strictures on the course of Governor Winthrop, which he was curious to examine. The Governor had alluded to the circumstances, in his History (vol. i. p. 155), in the following brief terms : —

“ At this Court, one of the deputies was questioned for denying the magistracy among us, affirming that the power of the Governor was but ministerial, &c. He had also much opposed the magistrates, and slighted them, and used many weak arguments against the negative voice, as himself acknowledged upon record. He was adjudged by all the Court to be disabled for three years from bearing any public office.”

Mr. Savage, in a note upon this passage, says as follows : —

“ An explanation worth transcribing is found in Col. Rec. i. 137 : ‘ Whereas Mr. Israel Stoughton hath written a certain book which hath occasioned much trouble and offence to the Court, the said Stoughton did desire of the Court that the said book might forthwith be burnt, as being weak and offensive.’ Such almost unexampled modesty, in an author, did not, however, propitiate the severe justice of the Assembly ; for on the same page appears an order, ‘ that Mr. Israel Stoughton shall be disabled from bearing any public office in the Commonwealth, within this jurisdiction, for the space of three years, for affirming the assistants were not magistrates.’ But his disability was removed or overlooked before the expiration of the sentence ; for, in December of the year 1636, he was again a deputy, and, being orthodox on the subject of the Antinomian controversy, was chosen an assistant in the following spring. He commanded the forces in the Pequod expedition in the same year. . . . He was father of the celebrated William Stoughton, first Lieutenant-Governor named by the Crown under the charter of William and Mary, and Chief-Justice in the trial of the witches.”

Dr. Palfrey also refers to the case, in his admirable “History of New England,” vol. i. pp. 427–8.

Mr. SAVAGE offered a letter from Nathaniel White, A.B. (H.C. 1646), addressed to the “Rev., and much honord in the Lord, Michael Wigglesworth, minister of the word, and sometimes pastor of a church of Christ at Maldon in New England,” dated “Overplus in Somer Islands, the 12th of the 7th mo., 1664.” The same gentleman also presented a bill of disbursement by John Faneuil for Mr. Henry Phillips of Boston, N.E.